

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 50 on agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 179) on H.R. 1 (For the People Act) and H.R. 1280 (George Floyd Justice in Policing Act). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Revitalizing Economies, Housing, and Businesses (REHAB) Act of 2021. This legislation incentivizes equitable transit-oriented development by providing a 15 percent tax credit for expenses related to the rehabilitation of buildings that are more than 50 years old, including adjacent development on the same block, provided that the project is within a half-mile of an existing or planned public transportation center. The legislation also provides a bonus credit of 25 percent for expenses associated with the provision of affordable housing and public infrastructure.

While existing community development incentives do an excellent job at targeting their segment of the market, there is a noticeable gap in equitable transit-oriented development. As more Americans move to urban areas, communities face difficult decisions in accommodating increased congestion and affordability concerns, all while seeking to keep their carbon footprint light. By focusing on the rehabilitation of existing assets that are near public transportation, projects are lighter on the land and residents can more easily access jobs and services via transit. Encouraging affordable housing investments in transit-rich areas will transform areas that are often some of the least affordable. Taken together, provisions in the REHAB Act encourage preservation, accessibility, and affordability and will create more livable communities.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an upcoming infrastructure investment package.

HONORING LORA MILES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and

ambitious woman of God, Pastor Lora Miles. Pastor Miles has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to teach the word of God.

Recently, Pastor Miles was recognized by the Yazoo County Regional Facility Chaplaincy's Department as its first African American female prison minister.

Pastor Miles is a native of Elizabeth, Mississippi, and currently serves as the Pastor of the Everlasting Love Ministry in Leland, MS. She has been involved in ministry work for nearly 30 years. It was after the passing of her son in 2014 that she hit the ground running in prison ministry—a safe haven to encourage her heart. She started her prison ministry at the Washington County Correctional Facility of Greenville, where she gives messages of hope and faith to hundreds of female inmates.

In 2019, Pastor Miles decided to expand her prison ministry to Yazoo County, where she now serves as the first female to minister at the Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, an all-male state facility.

Through her services in Yazoo County, inmates continue to receive Christ and inspirations through her messages of love. On Friday nights, at the Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, there are not enough chairs to accommodate all the men who are eager to attend the church services led by Pastor Miles. She is making a significant impact at the facility, and the lives of many men are being transformed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Lora Miles for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY J. WASHINGTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Gregory J. Washington, a New Orleans native, on the occasion of his retirement this year.

Greg began his forty-year career in the energy sector as a "roughneck" in the fields of south Louisiana during his high school summer breaks. For those of us who know Greg, it seems obvious that he would find success in the industry that offered him his first job. After graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1978, Greg started with Texaco as a "landman" in New Orleans and went on to become the State Mineral Board Representative from 1986 to 1990. Greg was later promoted to be Texaco's Senior Public and Government Affairs Representative for Louisiana and was eventually asked to transfer to Washington, D.C., for what he thought would be a short-term assignment. After many years with the

Texaco and Chevron Washington offices, Greg has decided to hang up his hard hat for good and enter retirement.

Throughout his career, Greg has shown his strong Louisiana work ethic and his "come early, stay late" attitude. He has always been eager to share his love of Louisiana and our culture with everyone he meets. He has continued to approach his work with an enthusiastic and positive outlook. As a result, he is well known and well liked, and his decision to retire certainly leaves a void that will be hard to fill. I know all his friends and colleagues will miss him dearly.

Greg and Cassandra, his lovely wife of 40 years, are looking forward to spending more time together in their well-earned retirement. I expect that this will surely include more time in his hometown of New Orleans.

I wish Greg and Cassandra all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great accomplishment—the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. In my role as ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, I've had the great opportunity to learn about the many services the Library of Congress provides—not only Congress, but to all Americans. One of its most notable and inspiring is the National Library Service, or NLS, an institution committed to serving readers with disabilities with the mission of ensuring "that all may read".

The history of the NLS began in 1897, with the seventh Librarian of Congress, John Russell Young, established a reading room for the blind that included more than 500 books and music items in raised characters. By 1913, Congress began to require that one copy of each book be made in raised characters and available at the Library of Congress for educational use, but the collection had its limits, as it was only available to visit in-person.

In 1930, Representative Ruth Pratt of New York and Senator Reed Smoot of Utah led a movement to make the collection more accessible across the country, leading to the passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act, which, on March 3, 1931, created what we know today as the National Library Service. In the 90 years since then, the NLS has expanded its service to reach children and individuals with additional types of physical and reading disabilities through not only books, but the world's largest accessible music materials collection.

But this 90th anniversary isn't only a celebration of the NLS, it is a celebration of the

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